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REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's review of the specification, claims, and drawings. In light of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application. No new matter has been entered.

Status of the Claims:

Claims 60-117 are pending in the application. Claims 83 and 85 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species. Claims 1-59 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 60, 97, and 108 have been amended as set forth above. All claims stand rejected.

Claim Rejections:

The Examiner rejects Claims 60-62, 64-66, 69-76, 92, 95-98, and 100-102 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tobin, Jr. '952 in view of Holt '539.

The Examiner rejects Claims 67, 68, 84, 103, and 108-117 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tobin, Jr. '952 in view of Holt '539 and, further, in view of Mizuta et al '302.

The Examiner rejects Claims 67, 68, 84, 103, and 108-117 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tobin, Jr. '952 in view of Holt '539 and, further, in view of Marhauer '770.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for the reasons set forth below.

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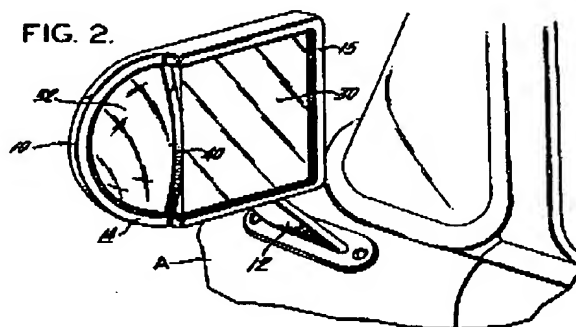
Applicants have amended Claims 60, 97, and 108 to clarify the claimed invention. Claim 60 has been amended as follows:

An automobile exterior sideview mirror system comprising:
an exterior sideview mirror assembly adapted for attachment to a side of an automobile;
said exterior sideview mirror assembly including a reflective element assembly;
said reflective element assembly including a first reflective element having unit magnification and a second reflective element having a curvature;
said first reflective element and said second reflective element supported at a support element;
said second reflective element disposed at an outer, upper portion of said reflective element assembly when said reflective element assembly is included in said exterior sideview mirror assembly and when said exterior sideview mirror assembly is attached to the side of an automobile;
said second reflective element supported on said support element adjacent to and separate from said first reflective element;
a demarcation element between said first reflective element and said second reflective element; and
wherein the portion of said second reflective element adjacent said demarcation element has its front surface generally coplanar with the front surface of said first reflective element.

Claims 97 and 108 have been similarly amended. Applicants respectfully urge that Tobin does not disclose or suggest the claimed combination, and that none of Holt '539, Mizuta et al. '302, and Marhauer '770 cures the deficiencies of Tobin. For example, Tobin does not disclose or suggest an exterior sideview system that includes a reflective element assembly with a first reflective element having unit magnification and a second reflective element having a curvature, with the first reflective element and the second reflective element supported at a support element, and with the second reflective element disposed at an outer, upper portion of the reflective element assembly and supported on the support element

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adjacent to and separate from the first reflective element with a demarcation element between the first reflective element and the second reflective element and wherein the portion of the second reflective element adjacent the demarcation element has its front surface generally coplanar with the front surface of the first reflective element. In contrast, Tobin teaches that the "convex section 32 is coextensive with and abuts a side edge of the planar mirror section" (Col. 3, lines 37-42). As clearly shown in FIG. 2 of the Tobin patent, which is reproduced below, the portion of the convex section 32 adjacent the planar mirror section does not have its front surface generally coplanar with the front surface of the planar mirror section. As such, Applicant respectfully urges that Tobin teaches away from the combination as clarified in the current amendment.



Accordingly, Applicants respectfully urge it would not be obvious to modify Tobin to meet the claimed combination. Further, even when combined the references do not teach or suggest all the limitations of the claimed combination. Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that none of Tobin, Holt '539, Mizuta et al '302, and Marhauer '770 alone or in combination or in combination with any other references discloses, teaches, suggests or

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renders obvious any of the claims of the present invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (616) 975-5506.

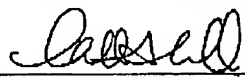
Respectfully submitted,

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By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhardt, LLP

April 11, 2005
Date

CSC:lmsc


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